Discussion regarding Indo-Iran gas pipeline

4252. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he discussed with the Government of Pakistan during his recent visit to that country, the prospects of laying Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Issues concerning Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project, namely, project structure, transportation tariff and transit fee for passage of gas through Pakistan, were discussed in the meeting between India and Pakistan held in Islamabad, Pakistan on April 25, 2008. There was agreement on the principles on which bilateral agreement will be concluded on the above issues.

Implementation of Supreme Court's directive

4253. SHRI PRAVEEN RASTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Supreme Court Judgement in the Case No. I. A. 10 in Civil Appeal No. 6607 of 2005, ONGC (appellant) v/s Engineering Mazdoor Sangh (respondent);

(b) how much time the ONGC requires to implement the directive of Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(c) who is responsible for delay; and

(d) why such delay inspite of clear verdict from the Hon'ble Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) While passing the order in IA No. 10/2007 in Civil Appeal No. 6607 of 2005 on 08/02/2008, the Honourable Supreme Court has clarified the directions given by it contained in judgement and Order dated 20/11/2006 by indicating that as far as 153 workmen are concerned, the eligibility criteria in their cases would be as was existing on the date of Tribunal Judgement dated 6th June, 1994.

Further, it was also clarified that as far as age bar is concerned, since 153 workmen had not been given any further employment for 240 days after the judgement of the Tribunal, condition regarding relaxation of age bar by giving one year's relaxation to further 240 days would apply in their cases.

(b) ONGC has already initiated necessary action and will be implementing within the framework of the directions. Court has given two years time since 20/11/06.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Production of Oil

4254. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the areas where oil drilling is currently going on;

(b) what is the current estimated potential of oil in these areas;

(c) whether it is a fact that oil drilling in some areas has also been given to private sector;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard and the estimated potential; and

(e) what would be the total production of oil after all these areas have been exploited vis-a-vis current production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIDINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Exploration and Production (E&P) drilling activities are currently being carried out inAssam, Tripura, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, Eastern and Western offshore areas.

(b) In place proven hydrocarbons reserves as on 01.04.2007 in the country are 8865.46 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT).

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, in Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) regime some exploration blocks have been awarded to Private (Pvt)/Joint Ventures (JVs) companies. As on 01.04.2007 the total initial in-place hydrocarbons reserves of 1467.6 MMT have been established by PVTs/JVs.

(e) Production of crude oil and gas by the terminal year of XI plan (2011-12) is projected to be 39.51 MMT and 63.23 Billion Cubic Metres respectively.

GSPA with Iran and Pakistan

4255. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Gas Sale Purchase Agreement (GSPA), involving Iran. Pakistan and India;

(b) whether Pakistan had offered to talk about the disputed transit fee on 7 February, 2008 in Islamabad;

(c) the details of the outcome of the talk;

(d) Government's plan to expedite the GSPA; and

(e) whether there is any indication that Iran may invite China if India remains reluctant to join the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Discussions on various important issues concerning the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Project are underway amongst the participating countries. The agreement will be signed only after satisfactory resolution of the issues under discussion.